

# Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

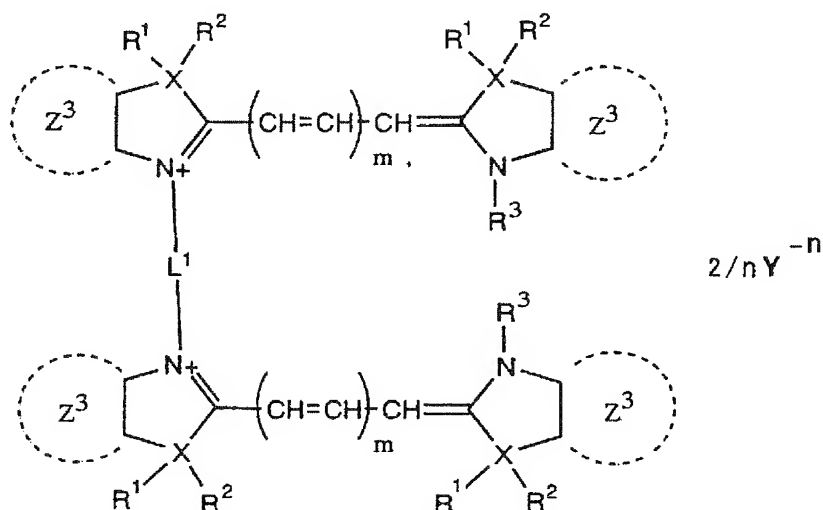
Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously Presented) The cyanine dye as claimed in claim 3, which is not substantially decomposed when irradiated with 5 mW/cm<sup>2</sup> laser for 200 hours at a wavelength of 780 nm.

3. (Currently Amended) A cyanine dye represented by General Formula 2:

General Formula 2:



wherein in General Formula 2, X denotes a carbon atom or heteroatom of the group 15 or 16 in the periodic table excluding a nitrogen atom;  $Z^3$  denotes either a benzene or naphthalene ring, while  $R^1$  to  $R^3$  independently denote a hydrogen atom or aliphatic hydrocarbon group, with the proviso that  $R^1$  and/or  $R^2$  are not present when X is a heteroatom;  $L^1$  denotes a divalent group; the symbol "m" is an integer of 2 or larger; Y denotes a monovalent or multivalent anion of organometallic complex selected from the group consisting of azo, thiocatechol chelate, thiobisphenolate chelate, bisdithiol- $\alpha$ -diketone, and bisphenyldithiols; the symbol "n" is the number of charge unit in the anion of said organometallic complex; and the polymethine chain in the cyanine skeleton may bear a substituent and/or cyclic structure, said substituent being a member selected from the group consisting of an aliphatic hydrocarbon group, alicyclic hydrocarbon group, aromatic hydrocarbon group, halogen group, amino group, heterocyclic group, and combinations thereof; and said cyclic structure being a member selected from the group consisting of cyclopentene, cyclopentadiene, cyclohexene, cyclohexadiene, cycloheptene, cyclooctene, cyclooctadiene, and benzene, each of which may have a substituent similar to those in the polymethine chain.